

Claim Listing

1. (Original) A method of trading telecommunications services, comprising:
- identifying at least one parameter;
 - specifying for that parameter a plurality of values, each value associated with a particular class of service;
 - receiving from a seller an offer to sell a telecommunications service;
 - assigning the offered telecommunications service to a class on the basis of the asserted value of that parameter in the offered telecommunications service;
 - receiving from a buyer an offer to purchase a required telecommunications service;
 - assigning the required telecommunications service to a class;
 - matching the offer to sell to the offer to buy when the offered telecommunications service is the same class as the required telecommunications service;
 - brokering a transaction that effects a transfer of ownership of the offered telecommunications service from the seller to the buyer.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the offered telecommunications service is assigned to a class by the seller.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the offered telecommunications service is assigned to a class by the entity that brokers the transaction between the seller and the buyer.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the required telecommunication service is assigned to a class by the buyer.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the required telecommunication service is assigned to a class by the entity that brokers the transaction between the seller and the buyer.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the values specified for the parameter is a function of a median value for the parameter for a class of telecommunications services including the offered telecommunications service.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein at least one value is modified over time as the median value for the parameter changes.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring the quality of the service provided by the seller; and

reassigning the offered telecommunications service to a different class if the quality of service provided by the seller improves or degrades.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the service offer is reassigned only if the quality of service changes more than a predetermined amount.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, stabilizing the reassignment of service offers using a hysteresis band.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring the typical quality of service provided for the class; and
reassigning the offered telecommunications service to a different class if the quality of service provided by the seller improves or degrades relative to the typical quality of service provided for the class.

12. (Original) A method of providing a telecommunications sale comprising the steps of:
- defining classes for telecommunications services;
 - acquiring from a buyer and a seller sell and purchase orders for telecommunications services;
 - verifying the seller's telecommunications service parameters;
 - storing the sell and purchase orders electronically;
 - pooling sellers' telecommunications services based on the grade of telecommunications service;
 - automatically identifying a seller's telecommunications service that satisfies the buyer's telecommunications service purchase order based on the sell and purchase orders;
 - and enabling interconnection node or nodes between the seller and the buyer according to a pre-determined bilateral agreement.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of defining classes includes choosing a set of class parameters and the values for the parameters.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of defining grades includes specifying weighting factors for the grade parameters.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of acquiring includes a seller and a buyer inputting sell and purchase orders into input templates on a secure network site.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of inputting sell and purchase orders includes inputting the grade, capacity, route, price and the number of circuits information of the telecommunications service.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of determining the grade of a telecommunications service from the parameter values inputted.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of verifying includes periodically verifying the classes of the telecommunications services available for sale.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of changing the class of a telecommunications service based on changed parameter values.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of verifying includes periodically verifying the classes of telecommunications service being used by a buyer.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of changing the class of a telecommunications service based on changed parameter values.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of assessing a penalty against a seller if its service is reassigned to a lower class.

23. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of recommending an alternate telecommunications service to satisfy the buyer's purchase order.

24. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising a buyer inputting a second purchase order when no match is identified for the buyer's first purchase order.

D' 25. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of identifying a seller's telecommunications service includes comparing the purchase order to services assigned to a class that satisfy the purchase order.

26. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of identifying a seller's telecommunications service includes selecting a sell order from a class that satisfies the purchase order.

27. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of identifying a seller's telecommunications service includes replacing a selected sell order with another sell order to satisfy the purchase order during an active use of telecommunications service that was the subject of the selected sell order.

[Claims 28-37 (Cancelled).

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38. (Previously presented) A method of trading telecommunications services, comprising:

identifying at least one parameter;

specifying for that parameter a plurality of values, each value associated with a particular class of service;

receiving by a server node from a seller an offer to sell a telecommunications service;

assigning by the server node the offered telecommunications service to a class on the basis of the asserted value of that parameter in the offered telecommunications service;

receiving by the server node from a buyer a request to buy a telecommunications service;

assigning the requested telecommunications service to a class;

matching by the server node the offer to sell to the request to buy when the offered telecommunications service is of the same class as the requested telecommunications service;

brokering a transaction that effects a transfer of the offered telecommunications service from the seller to the buyer.

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39. (Previously presented) The method of claim ²⁸38, wherein the offered telecommunication service is assigned to a class by the seller.

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40. (Previously presented) The method of claim ²⁸38, wherein the offered telecommunication service is assigned to a class by the server node.

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~~41.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim ²⁸~~38~~, wherein the requested telecommunication service is assigned to a class by the buyer.

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~~42.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim ²⁸~~38~~, wherein the requested telecommunication service is assigned to a class by the server node.

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~~43.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim ²⁸~~38~~, wherein at least one of the values specified for the parameter is a function of a median value for the parameter for a class of telecommunications services including the offered telecommunications service.

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~~44.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim ³³~~43~~, wherein the at least one value is modified over time as the median value for the parameter changes.

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~~45.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim ²⁸~~38~~, further comprising:
monitoring the quality of service provided by the seller; and
reassigning the offered telecommunications service to a different class if the quality of service provided by the seller improves or degrades.

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~~46.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim ³⁵~~45~~, wherein the service offer is reassigned only if the quality of service changes more than a predetermined amount.

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~~47.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim ³⁵~~45~~, stabilizing the reassignment of service offers using a hysteresis band.

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~~48~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim ²⁸~~38~~, further comprising:

monitoring the typical quality of service provided for the class; and
reassigning the offered telecommunications service to a different class if the quality
of service provided by the seller improves or degrades relative to the typical quality of
service provided for the class.

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~~49~~. (Currently amended) A method of providing a telecommunications sale comprising the
steps of:

defining classes for telecommunications services;
receiving by a server node from a buyer and a seller sell and purchase orders for
telecommunications services;
verifying by the server node the seller's telecommunications service parameters;
storing by the server node the sell and purchase orders;
classifying by the server node sellers' telecommunications services based on the
grade of telecommunications service;
identifying by the server node a seller's telecommunications service that satisfies the
buyer's telecommunications service purchase order including grade of telecommunication
service requirement based on the sell and purchase orders; and
enabling by the server node one or more interconnection nodes between the seller and
the buyer according to a pre-determined bilateral agreement.

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50. (Previously presented) The method of claim ³⁹49, wherein the step of defining classes includes choosing a set of class parameters and values for the parameters.

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51. (Previously presented) The method of claim ³⁹49, wherein the step of defining grades includes specifying weighting factors for the grade parameters.

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52. (Previously presented) The method of claim ³⁹49, wherein the step of receiving includes a seller and a buyer inputting sell and purchase orders into input templates on a secure network site.

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53. (Previously presented) The method of claim ⁴²52, wherein the step of inputting sell and purchase orders includes inputting the grade, capacity, route, price, and the number of circuits information of the telecommunications service.

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54. (Previously presented) The method of claim ⁴²52, further comprising the step of determining the grade of a telecommunications service from the parameter values inputted.

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55. (Previously presented) The method of claim ³⁹49, wherein the step of verifying includes periodically verifying the classes of the telecommunications services available for sale.

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56. (Previously presented) The method of claim ⁴⁵55, further comprising the step of changing the class of a telecommunications service based on changed parameter values.

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57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the step of verifying includes periodically verifying the classes of the telecommunications service being used by a buyer.

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58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising the step of changing the class of a telecommunications service based on changed parameter values.

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59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step of assessing a penalty against a seller if its service is reassigned to a lower class.

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60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of recommending an alternate telecommunications service to satisfy the buyer's purchase order.

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61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising a buyer inputting a second purchase order when no match is identified for the buyer's first purchase order.

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62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the step of identifying a seller's telecommunications service includes comparing the purchase order to services assigned to a class that satisfy the purchase order.

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63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the step of identifying a seller's telecommunications service includes selecting a sell order from a class that satisfies the purchase order.

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~~64~~. (Previously presented) The method of claim ³⁹~~49~~, wherein the step of identifying a seller's telecommunications service includes replacing a selected sell order with another sell order to satisfy the purchase order during an active use of telecommunications service that was the subject of the selected sell order.

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~~65~~. (Currently amended) A telecommunications sale system comprising:

a plurality of sellers;

a plurality of buyers;

a network site connected to a server node for receiving sell and purchase orders offers from the sellers and buyers, respectively, for telecommunications services, each of said sell and purchase orders-offers specifying a class of service; and

means for matching the sell and purchase orders-offers and brokering a transaction of telecommunications service, on the basis of at least one of the specified classes of service.

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~~66~~. (Previously presented) The systems of claim ⁵⁵~~65~~, further comprising an interconnection node between a seller telecommunication network and buyer telecommunication network so as to enable a buyer to use telecommunications service purchased from a seller.

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~~67~~. (Previously presented) The system of claim ⁵⁵~~65~~, wherein said interconnection node is connected to said server node through a communication line and receives instructions from said server node for connecting said buyer and said seller telecommunications networks.

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68. (Previously presented) The system of claim 55, wherein the network site includes a secure world-wide-web site.

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69. (Previously presented) The system of claim 55, wherein at least one of the sellers is not a telecommunications carrier.

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70. (Previously presented) The system of claim 55, wherein at least one of the buyers is not a telecommunications carrier.

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71. (Previously presented) The system of claim 55, wherein, for each purchase order, the system assigns the purchase order to a class and requests approval for the assignment from the buyer.

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72. (Previously presented) The system of claim 55, wherein, for each purchase order, the purchase order is assigned to a class and the system informs the buyer of a price at which the system will be able to match the buyer's purchase order with a sell order.

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73. (Previously presented) The system of claim 62, wherein the system gives the buyer the opportunity to enter a price for its purchase order equal to said price.

74. (Cancelled).

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75. (Previously presented) The system of claim ⁵⁵65, wherein said at least one of the specified classes of service includes Answer Seizure Ratio.

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76. (Previously presented) The system of claim ⁵⁵65, wherein said at least one of the specified classes of service includes Post Dial Delay.

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77. (Previously presented) The system of claim ⁵⁶66, wherein said interconnection node includes a quality monitoring equipment.